

(c) whether the length of railway track has been quite low in the North Eastern States, particularly in Assam;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the length in these States, particularly in Assam;

(e) the year from which conversion into broad-gauge was undertaken in the country and the break-up of broad gauge of metre gauge in Assam vis-a-vis in the country upto 1996; and

(f) the targets made for gauge conversion in Assam during current year and progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Women Vocational Training Centres

4085. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any women's vocational training centre in Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the planning of the Union Government to open the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Vocational Training Centres/Industrial Training Institutes are mainly established and run by the concerned State Governments. According to information made available by State Government of Bihar, there are four women's ITIs in the region. They are located in Hazaribagh, Chaibasa, Ranchi and Dumka. The total seating capacity of these ITIs is 432.

Training facilities in general ITIs are also open to women candidates.

Misuse and Unauthorised Occupation of Retiring Rooms

4086. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale misuse and unauthorised occupation of retiring rooms on the main railway stations and the rude and discouraging attitude of the railway employees are directing the bonafide passengers to seek hotel accommodation;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to handover the retiring rooms to private entrepreneurs; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to correct and improve the retiring room services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No instance of misuse or unauthorised use of retiring rooms or rude behaviour on this account by railway staff has come to notice.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted at various levels to prevent misuse and unauthorised occupation of the retiring rooms or misbehaviour by the staff. Steps are also taken for proper upkeep of the retiring rooms to maintain the standard of retiring rooms at the desired level.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train between Surat and Patna

4087. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI KANSHI RAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new train service between Surat and Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce a weekly train between Surat and Patna during 1997-98.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Revival Package for ITI, Bangalore

4088. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the revival package for the Indian Telephone Industries Limited;

(b) if so, the amount of soft loan given or proposed to be given to tide over the current working capital problems;

(c) the loss incurred by the company during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, so far;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enlarge the business of the I.T.I. with defence sector and with DoT;